

***In the Abstract:***

Please delete the Abstract originally filed with the application and substitute therefor the abstract attached hereto on a separate sheet.

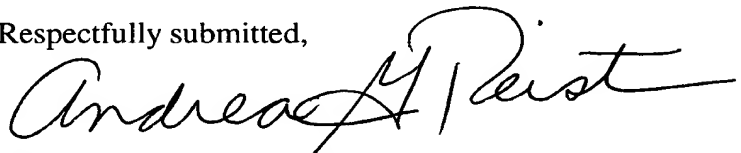
***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-29 are pending for the Examiner's consideration, with claims 1, 2, and 12 being the independent claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. In this regard, the Examiner is referred to, for example, page 6, line 15 through page 10, line 30 of the application as originally filed.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Second Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea G. Reister". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" and last name "Reister" clearly distinguishable.

Andrea G. Reister, Registration No. 36,253

Date: December 16, 1999

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***Abstract***

A method for preparing biodegradable, biocompatible microparticles. A first phase is prepared that includes a biodegradable, biocompatible polymer, an active agent, and a solvent. A second phase is prepared. The first and second phases are combined to form an emulsion in which the first phase is discontinuous and the second phase is continuous. The discontinuous first phase is separated from the continuous second phase. The residual level of solvent in the discontinuous first phase is reduced to less than about 2% by weight.